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U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR

09/423606

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/JP98/01018INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
MARCH 11, 1998PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
MAY 13, 1997

TITLE OF INVENTION

GLASSY-FILM-FORMING COATING AGENT, AND COATING METHOD AND SYSTEM USING THE SAME

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Kazutaka HAYASHI, et al.

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2))
 - a. is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210).
8. Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))
 - a. are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. have not been made and will not be made.
9. A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
10. An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).
11. A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409).
12. A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).

Items 13 to 18 below concern document(s) or information included:

13. An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
14. An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
15. A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
A SECOND or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
16. A substitute specification.
17. A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
18. Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail
19. Other items or information:

Request for Consideration of Documents Cited in International Search Report
Notice of Priority
PCT/IB/304
PCT/IB/308
Drawings (5 Sheets)

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR 09/423606	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP98/01018	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 3114-0025-0X PCT																				
20. The following fees are submitted.: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) :		CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY																				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO \$840.00 <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) \$670.00 <input type="checkbox"/> No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) \$760.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$970.00 <input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4) \$96.00																						
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Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28) (check if applicable).		<input type="checkbox"/> \$0.00																				
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Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable).		<input type="checkbox"/> \$0.00																				
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A check in the amount of **\$1,340.00** to cover the above fees is enclosed.

Please charge my Deposit Account No. **15-0030** in the amount of _____ to cover the above fees.
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NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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24,618
REGISTRATION NUMBER
DATE

GLASSY-FILM-FORMING COATING AGENT, AND
COATING METHOD AND SYSTEM USING THE SAMEFIELD OF INDUSTRIAL UTILITY

5 The present invention relates to a coating agent useful for forming a glassy film on a substrate, to a coating method using the same, and to a bottle coated with the coating agent.

Further, the present invention also relates to a coating system useful for forming a glassy film on a substrate.

10

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The sol-gel process using as a starting material a solution of an organic or inorganic compound of a metal such as a silicon alkoxide has conventionally been known as one of the methods for manufacturing glass. In this process, the hydrolysis and condensation polymerization reaction of the compound are carried out in the solution to make the solution into a sol in which fine metallic oxide or hydroxide particles are dispersed. The sol is then made into a gel by allowing the reaction to further proceed; the gel is dried to give a porous gel; and this porous gel is heated to produce glass or ceramic. This process is also known as a method for imparting additional values to substrates to manufacture functional glass that can be used as anti-reflecting films or color filters for cathode ray tubes.

25 A method for forming colored coatings on such objects as glass bottles by employing this sol-gel process has already been disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. 178623/1993. According to this publication, a colored filter is obtained by dispersing fine particles of a pigment in a silica gel film by the sol-gel process. In this method, the film to be colored is a silica gel film. Since a silica gel film tends to be cracked when dried, it is difficult to form a film with a thickness in the order of several microns. This method therefore seems to have such a problem that it is necessary to make the concentration of fine organic pigment particles extremely high in order to obtain a deeply colored silica gel film.

30 J. Non-cryst. Solid, 100, 490 (1988) discloses

organic-inorganic composites obtained by directly combining organic compounds with inorganic components. The temperature required to calcine the composites is as high as 650°C. It is unfavorable from the economical point of view to reheat 5 once-shaped glassware, substrate, to such a high temperature. There is therefore a demand for a composite that hardens at a lower temperature in a shorter time.

Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. 137737/1990 is directed to the production of organic-inorganic hybrid glass, 10 and discloses a method for manufacturing organic-inorganic hybrid glass that hardens at low temperatures. Organic siloxanes having highly organic nature are used in this method, so that their affinities for glass surfaces seem to be low.

A method using organic silicon compounds is also disclosed 15 in Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. 315849/1995. The main component of organic groups in the organic silicon compounds is phenyl group. Therefore, although coatings containing these organic silicon compounds are excellent in abrasion resistance, it cannot be expected that the coatings harden rapidly.

20 *Mat. Res. Soc. Symp. Proc.*, Vol. 180, 767 (1990) and Vol. 180, 995 (1990) report organic-inorganic hybrid materials which harden when irradiated with ultraviolet light. However, these literatures are quite silent on the dispersibility of fine particles; this information is necessary for the formation of 25 colored films by the use of fine particles of organic pigments.

Published Japanese Translation No. 501694/1992 of PCT international publication for patent application describes glass containers coated with colored layers. These colored layers are made from organic materials, and, in addition, their thicknesses 30 are as large as 10 micrometers or more. It is therefore difficult to re-use such glass containers as resources. Moreover, cullet of poor quality can only be obtained when these glass containers are crushed.

Accordingly, there has conventionally been demanded a 35 colored organic-inorganic hybrid material which can give a thin film with its thickness in the order of microns being well controlled, in which an organic pigment is dispersed at high

dispersibility, which hardens rapidly at low temperatures, which shows high adhesion to glass, and which can make it easy to re-use coated glass as resources; and a glassy-film-coating method using this hybrid material.

5

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

<Summary>

A glassy-film-forming coating agent of the present invention comprises compounds represented by the following general formulae (1), (2) and (3):



wherein

15 R^1 is a polymerizable organic group,

R^2 is an alkyl group having not more than 4 carbon atoms,

R^3 is an alkyl group having not more than 6 carbon atoms,

p is an integer of 1 to 3,

q is an integer of 1 to 10,

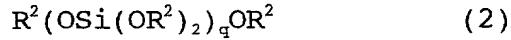
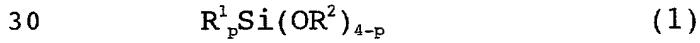
20 M is a trivalent or tetravalent metal ion, and

r is an integer of 3 or 4 corresponding to the valence of M,

provided that, when one of the compounds contains two or more R^1 's, R^2 's or R^3 's, they may be the same or different.

25 A glassy-film-coating method of the present invention comprising:

applying, to a substrate, a coating agent which comprises compounds represented by the following general formulae (1), (2) and (3):



wherein

35 R^1 is a polymerizable organic group,

R^2 is an alkyl group having not more than 4 carbon atoms,

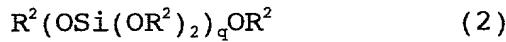
R^3 is an alkyl group having not more than 6 carbon atoms,

p is an integer of 1 to 3,

q is an integer of 1 to 10,
 M is a trivalent or tetravalent metal ion, and
 r is an integer of 3 or 4 corresponding to the valence of
 M,

provided that, when one of the compounds contains two or
 more R¹'s, R²'s or R³'s, they may be the same or different, and
 subjecting the coating agent applied to the substrate to
 irradiation and/or heat treatment.

A coated bottle of the present invention is obtained by
 applying, to a bottle, substrate, a coating agent which comprises
 compounds represented by the following general formulae (1), (2)
 and (3):



wherein

R¹ is a polymerizable organic group,

R² is an alkyl group having not more than 4 carbon atoms,

R³ is an alkyl group having not more than 6 carbon atoms,

p is an integer of 1 to 3,

q is an integer of 1 to 10,

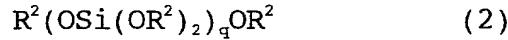
M is a trivalent or tetravalent metal ion, and

r is an integer of 3 or 4 corresponding to the valence of
 M,

provided that, when one of the compounds contains two or
 more R¹'s, R²'s or R³'s, they may be the same or different, and
 subjecting the coating agent applied to the bottle to
 irradiation and/or heat treatment.

A glassy-film-coating system of the present invention
 comprises the following units:

(a) a coater for applying, to a substrate, a coating agent
 comprising compounds represented by the following
 general formulae (1), (2) and (3):



wherein

R^1 is a polymerizable organic group,
 R^2 is an alkyl group having not more than 4 carbon atoms,
 R^3 is an alkyl group having not more than 6 carbon atoms,
p is an integer of 1 to 3,
5 q is an integer of 1 to 10,
M is a trivalent or tetravalent metal ion, and
r is an integer of 3 or 4 corresponding to the valence of
M,

provided that, when one of the compounds contains two or
10 more R^1 's, R^2 's or R^3 's, they may be the same or different, and
(b) a coating-hardening unit for irradiating and/or
heating the coating agent applied to the substrate.

<Effects>

The coating agent of the present invention can give a thin
15 film having sufficiently high flexibility with its thickness in
the order of microns being well controlled. Moreover, in the case
where an organic pigment is incorporated into the coating agent,
it shows high dispersibility. In addition, the coating agent
gives a vitreous film that hardens rapidly at low temperatures.
20

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is an elevation showing an example of the
glassy-film-coating system according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a plan of the above glassy-film-coating system
25 according to the present invention;

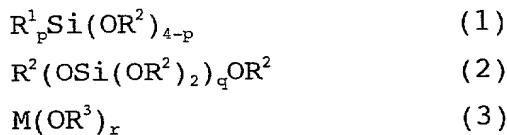
Figs. 3A and 3B are organization views showing an example
of a glass bottle conveyer in the glassy-film-coating system
according to the present invention; and

Figs. 4A, 4B, 5A and 5B are organization views showing an
excess-
30 liquid-absorbing device that can be used in the
glassy-film-coating system according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

<Glassy-Film-Forming Components>

35 The coating agent of the present invention comprises
compounds represented by the following general formulae (1), (2)
and (3):



wherein

- 5 R^1 is a polymerizable organic group,
 R^2 is an alkyl group having not more than 4 carbon atoms,
 R^3 is an alkyl group having not more than 6 carbon atoms,
 p is an integer of 1 to 3,
 q is an integer of 1 to 10,
 10 M is a trivalent or tetravalent metal ion, and
 r is an integer of 3 or 4 corresponding to the valence of
 M,

provided that, when one of the compounds contains two or more R^1 's, R^2 's or R^3 's, they may be the same or different.

- 15 The compound represented by general formula (1) is an alkoxy silane compound having a polymerizable organic group R^1 . The polymerizable organic group herein means an organic group having unsaturated double bond or a ring-opening cyclic group that is cleaved to cause addition or polyaddition reaction repeatedly. Examples of such polymerizable organic groups include vinyl, 2-propenyl, isopropenyl, acryloyl, methacryloyl and γ -methacryloxypropyl groups as groups having polymerizable unsaturated double bond; and cyclic ether groups, especially cyclic monoether groups, and lactone, lactam, acid anhydride and 20 isocyanate (and hydroxyl) groups as ring-opening cyclic groups. Of these, vinyl and γ -methacryloxypropyl groups are preferred.

25 Of these compounds, vinyl trimethoxysilane, vinyl triethoxysilane, and γ -methacryloxypropyl trimethoxysilane are specifically preferred. Further, a plurality of these compounds may be used in combination.

30 The alkoxy silane compound represented by general formula (2), combined with the compound of general formula (1), shows the effect of imparting, to the resulting matrix material, an affinity for the surface of a substrate.

35 Any compound can be used as this compound as long as it has general formula (2), and tetramethoxysilane and tetraethoxysilane are particularly preferred. When it is

unfavorable to use these monomers from the viewpoint of safety, polymerizable silicates, specifically "Ethyl Silicate 40 (Trademark)" or "Methyl Silicate 51 (Trademark)" manufactured by Mitsubishi Chemical Industries, Ltd., Japan may be used.

5 The compound represented by general formula (3) has the effect of enhancing the hardness of a film to be formed by the matrix material, the effect of accelerating the hardening of the film, and the effect of imparting alkali resistance to the finally obtainable glassy film.

10 In general, a trivalent or tetravalent metal ion is used as the metal ion in the compound of general formula (3). Ti, Zr or Al is particularly preferred as the metal ion.

15 When R² or R³ in general formulae (1) to (3) has an excessively large number of carbon atoms, it tends to remain as an impurity in the hardened matrix finally obtained, or the coating film hardened shows impaired resistance to organic solvents. It is therefore preferable that R² has not more than 2 carbon atoms and that R³ has not more than 4 carbon atoms.

20 The aforementioned compounds are mixed by one of conventional means to give a matrix material. The matrix material is generally obtained by mixing the compounds as they are when they are liquids, or after dissolving or dispersing the compounds in a proper solvent when they are solids, optional additives being added as needed. Alternatively, after mixing the compounds in the solid state, the mixture may be dissolved or dispersed in a proper solvent. The solvent herein used is selected depending upon the type of the compounds to be used, the type of the pigment to be used, and the dispersion conditions. In general, however, the solvent is ethanol, propanol, butanol or the like. From the viewpoint of pigment-dispersing properties, butanol is preferred as the solvent. To obtain a frosty vitreous coating (the details will be described later), it is preferable to use ethanol as the solvent.

30 These compounds (1), (2) and (3) may be mixed in any proportion. In general, however, they are mixed in the following proportions:

 compound (1): 40 to 80 mol%,

compound (2): 10 to 30 mol%, and
compound (3): 5 to 50 mol%.

It is more preferable to mix compounds (1), (2) and (3) in the following proportions:

- 5 compound (1): 65 to 75 mol%,
 compound (2): 15 to 25 mol%, and
 compound (3): 5 to 20 mol%.

When the percentages of these compounds are not within the above-described ranges, the resulting coating agent tends to have 10 an excessively high viscosity, to show poor adhesion to a substrate, or to give a film whose hardness is not sufficiently high.

<Polymerization Initiator>

15 It is preferable that the glassy-film-forming coating agent of the present invention further comprises a polymerization initiator.

The glassy-film-forming coating agent of the present invention is composed of the above-described matrix material, and, when the organic components of the matrix material are 20 polymerized, a film whose hardness is higher than that of a film composed of siloxane bond only is formed more rapidly. At this time, the polymerization initiator serves to make the polymerization of the matrix material proceed efficiently and uniformly.

25 In the present invention, any polymerization initiator selected from, for example, photopolymerization initiators, radical polymerization initiators and thermal polymerization initiators can be used as long as it is suitable for the mechanism of polymerization of a given polymerizable organic group and does 30 not mar the effects of the present invention. Of these initiators, photopolymerization initiators are preferred. Specific examples of useful initiators include benzophenone, 1-hydroxycyclohexyl phenyl ketone, benzoyl peroxide and azoisobutyronitrile.

35 <Colorant Agent and Dispersant>

The glassy-film-forming coating agent of the present invention may contain a pigment or dye as a colorant for coloring

a film to be formed by the matrix material.

Any pigment can be used as long as it can be dispersed in the above-described matrix material and undergoes substantially no decomposition during the heat treatment that is carried out
5 in order to harden the film. Examples of such pigments include phthalocyanine, azo, anthraquinone, durene, quinacridone, perylene, perinone, dioxazine, thioindigo and isoindolinone pigments. Of these, durene and quinacridone pigments are preferred. Further, two or more different types of pigments may
10 be used in combination when necessary. Of these pigments, phthalocyanine pigments, especially copper phthalocyanine (Phthalocyanine Blue) and Phthalocyanine Green are preferred.

In the case where such a pigment is used, it is preferable to use a dispersant in combination with the pigment in order to
15 improve the dispersion stability of the pigment. Examples of useful dispersants include carboxylic-acid-type polymeric dispersants, specifically "Antigel (Trademark)" manufactured by Schwegmann Additives Corporation, fluorinated alkyl ester dispersants, specifically "BM1000 (Trademark)" manufactured by
20 Schwegmann Additives Corporation, and high-molecular-weight modified polyester/butyl acetate dispersants, specifically "SW8080 (Trademark)" manufactured by Schwegmann Additives Corporation. Of these, carboxylic-acid-type polymeric dispersants are preferred.

25 In the case where a pigment and a dispersant are used in combination, they are generally dissolved or dispersed in a solvent; and the solution or dispersion obtained is then added to and dispersed in the aforementioned matrix material by a dispersion mixer. Alternatively, a solution or dispersion
30 obtained by dissolving or dispersing the pigment and dispersant in a solvent may previously be mixed with or dispersed in any of the compounds constituting the matrix material when necessary. Any dispersion mixer may be used. Examples of useful dispersion mixers include pot mills, ball mills, sand mills, ultrasonic dispersion mixers, and homogenizers.

When a pigment is dispersed in the glassy-film-forming coating agent of the present invention, the dispersibility of

the pigment in the coating agent can vary depending upon the time elapsed between the completion of preparation of the matrix material and the start of pigment-dispersing operation. However, there can be found almost no change in dispersion stability with
5 time. It is therefore possible to control the dispersibility of the pigment by controlling the time between the completion of preparation of the matrix material and the start of pigment-dispersing operation.

A dye may be used instead of the pigment. For instance,
10 styrene azo, azo, ketoimine, acrydine and thiazine dyes can be used. When such a dye is used, it is not necessary to use a dispersant.

In the case where a pigment, dye or dispersant is used, it is preferable that it contains no metallic element. This is because a glass substrate such as a glass bottle coated with the
15 glassy-film-forming coating agent of the present invention, containing a pigment, dye or dispersant having no metallic element does not cause serious troubles when it is subjected to recycling. Although inorganic pigments other than the above-described ones,
20 such as zinc or chrome pigments, or organic dyes containing metal ions such as Phthalocyanine Blue or Green can also be used, a special treatment may be required for recycling glass coated with a film containing such a pigment or dye.

<Frictional-Resistance-Reducing Agent>

25 The glassy-film-forming coating agent of the present invention may contain a frictional-resistance-reducing agent effective for reducing the frictional resistance, particularly the sliding friction, of a film formed by the matrix material. Such a frictional-resistance-reducing agent incorporated into
30 the film serves to decrease the coefficient of sliding frictional resistance of the film surface due to its effects of making the surface of the hardened film smooth, and of imparting proper hardness to the film hardened.

Therefore, by coating a substrate with the glassy-film-forming coating agent of the present invention into which the frictional-resistance-reducing agent has been incorporated, it is possible to reduce the amount of scratches that are produced

on the surface of the film when the film is brought into contact with other objects.

Any frictional-resistance-reducing agent can be used in the glassy-film-forming coating agent of the present invention 5 as long as it does not mar the effects of the present invention. For example, modified polysiloxane compounds, specifically "S130 (Trademark)" manufactured by Defra A.G., Germany can be mentioned.

<Polymerizable Monomer>

10 A polymerizable organic monomer may further be incorporated into the glassy-film-forming coating agent of the present invention in order to modify the matrix material.

When a polymerizable organic monomer is added to the coating agent of the present invention, this polymerizable 15 organic monomer and the polymerizable organic group contained in the coating agent are bonded to each other, so that the nature of the resulting film becomes more organic. It is thus possible to improve the film in surface properties and adhesion to a substrate.

20 Any polymerizable organic monomer can be used as long as it has a functional group chemically polymerizable with the polymerizable organic group contained in the aforementioned compound (1) and does not mar the effects of the present invention. Examples of useful polymerizable organic monomers include those 25 compounds having unsaturated double bond, specifically methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate and methyl methacrylate. Of these monomers, methyl methacrylate is preferred.

<Coating Agent>

The coating agent of the present invention comprises the 30 above described compounds (1), (2) and (3), and, optionally, a polymerization initiator, pigment or dye, dispersant, frictional-resistance-reducing agent, polymerizable organic monomer and solvent.

The proportions of these optional components vary 35 depending upon the optional components used in the coating agent, the use of the coating agent, and the like. In general, however, the amount of each component based on the weight of the matrix

material, that is, on the total weight of the aforementioned compounds (1) to (3) is as follows. The polymerization initiator is 0.1 parts or less, preferably from 0.001 to 0.02 parts; the pigment or dye is 0.15 parts or less, preferably from 0.02 to 5 0.5 parts; the dispersant is 0.15 parts or less, preferably from 0.01 to 0.08 parts; the frictional-resistance-reducing agent is 0.2 parts or less, preferably from 0.01 to 0.1 parts; the polymerizable organic monomer is from 0.1 to 1 part, preferably from 0.2 to 0.8 parts; and the solvent is from 0.5 to 100 parts, 10 preferably from 3 to 20 parts.

When the coating agent of the present invention is used, a film with a thickness of approximately 2 to 5 micrometers, free from any defect such as crack can be obtained by applying the coating agent only once. It has been impossible to obtain such 15 a film by applying conventional silica gel. The reason for this may be such that the polymerizable organic group contained in compound (1), one component of the matrix material, has the effect of relaxing the stress accompanied by the shrinkage of the film which is caused during the heating process.

20 Besides the above-described compounds (1), (2) and (3), polymerization initiator, frictional-resistance-reducing agent, polymerizable organic monomer, pigment or dye, and dispersant, the coating agent of the present invention may contain any additive as long as it does not mar the effects of the present 25 invention. Examples of such additives include diluents, viscosity modifiers, matting agents and smoothing agents.

<Coating Method>

The present invention also relates to a method for applying the foregoing coating agent to a substrate to form thereon a film.

30 Any material can be used as the substrate to which the coating agent of the present invention is applied as long as it does not undergo modification during the step of hardening. Specific examples of materials useful for the substrate include glass, plastics, ceramics and metals. Of these, glass is 35 particularly preferred. The method of the present invention is effective, for example, for coloring transparent glass substrates. Further, the substrate to be coated with the coating

agent may be in any shape; and a substrate in the shape of a plate, a bar, particles, a bottle, a box or the like can be used. Of these, a substrate in the shape of a bottle is particularly preferred because the appearance of packaging can be improved 5 when the coating agent of the present invention is applied to such a substrate.

The glassy-film-coating method of the present invention firstly comprises the step of applying the aforementioned coating material to the above-described substrate.

10 Any method can be used for applying the coating agent to the substrate; and a dip, spray or curtain coating method, or the like can be employed depending on the shape of the substrate to be coated with the coating agent.

15 After the application of the coating agent is completed, air may be blown by using, for example, a blower on the film formed before drying the film in order to accelerate the drying of the film. At this time, if a highly hydrophilic solvent is used as a solvent in the coating agent, it is possible to make the surface of the film frosty (the details will be described later). 20 Alternatively, it is possible to give a frosty appearance to the film by controlling the hardening reaction of the film by placing it in an atmosphere rich in water vapor after the application of the coating agent is completed.

Next, the film formed is hardened by means of irradiation 25 and/or heating.

Heating may be conducted by any method, and is generally conducted by using an electric or air-heating furnace. The coating agent of the present invention can give a fully hardened film within one hour when heated at a temperature of generally 30 60 to 300°C, preferably 120 to 200°C, the temperature varying depending upon the nature of the substrate used.

Further, when the matrix material comprises a compound containing a photopolymerizable organic group, and/or when the coating agent comprises a photopolymerization initiator, it is 35 also possible to harden the film by irradiating it to cause polymerization reaction. In this case, the film is generally irradiated with visible or ultraviolet light, ultraviolet light

being preferred. Any light source can be used for the irradiation of the film. Examples of light sources include mercury vapor lamps, xenon discharge tubes, hydrogen discharge tubes, black light lamps, and a variety of laser light sources.

5 It is possible to harden the film either by irradiation or by heating. It is however preferable to combine these two means in order to shorten the heat treatment time and to impart higher hardness to the film.

10 In general, the glassy film hardened is then gradually cooled, whereby the coating of the glassy film is completed. There is no particular limitation on the temperature pattern for heating or cooling. It is however common to change the temperature within such a range that the substrate and glassy film undergo any damage.

15 <Coated Glass Bottle>

The present invention also relates to a coated glass bottle to which the aforementioned glassy-film-forming coating agent has been applied by the above-described coating method.

20 The coated glass bottle of the present invention is obtained by applying the aforementioned glassy-film-forming coating agent to the surface, preferably the outer surface of a glass bottle, and hardening it. The thickness of the glassy film hardened is generally 1 to 5 micrometers.

25 Any sort of glass can be used as a substrate. For instance, soda-lime glass, silicate glass, silicate alkaline glass, borosilicate glass and lead glass can be used.

30 This glassy film is composed of an organic-inorganic hybrid material as mentioned previously. As long as only an organic substance is used as the colorant, the constituents of the glassy film are organic materials including an organic colorant, a dispersant, etc., and silicon compounds. For this reason, when the coated glass bottle is re-melted, the glassy film formed on the surface of the glass bottle is converted into silicon dioxide that is a component of the glass, and carbon dioxide and water derived from the organic substances. The carbon dioxide and water are removed from the system by the heat applied to melt the bottle, so that the resulting melt can be handled equally

to a melt consisting of glass alone.

Further, it has been difficult to obtain, from conventional bottles coated with plastics or the like, cullet with quality of standard level. On the contrary, cullet obtained by crushing 5 the coated glass bottle of the present invention meets the qualities required for cullet. Therefore, the coated glass bottle of the present invention collected after use can be re-used by making it into cullet for manufacturing glass bottles.

As mentioned above, when the coated glass bottle of the 10 present invention is coated with a non-colored film or with a film colored by an organic colorant only, it is not necessary to separate the glass bottle from colorless bottles at the time of collection. The efficiency of recycling of glass can thus be improved.

15 <Frosty Glass Bottle>

In the coated glass bottle of the present invention, the glassy film on the bottle can be made frosty.

A frosty film can be formed in the following manner: after applying the glassy-film-forming coating agent to a substrate, 20 a solvent contained in the coating layer formed is removed before hardening the coating layer in order to cause phase separation inside the coating layer. As a result of this phase separation, a network structure in the order of several micrometers appears on the surface of the film. When the coating layer is separated 25 into two layers by this phase separation, a great difference in the concentration of the coating agent between the two layers is brought about, so that the film is to have a roughened surface after it is dried. The glassy film thus has a frosty appearance.

Easiness of occurrence of this phase separation depends 30 on the degree of removal of the solvent and on the type of the solvent used.

The degree of removal of the solvent is determined by various factors. In order to obtain a glassy film having a frosty appearance, it is preferable to remove the solvent by blowing 35 air by a blower, or by placing the substrate coated with the coating agent under the condition of reduced pressure. The solvent can also be removed by heating. In this case, the

substrate coated with the coating agent should be placed under such conditions that the solvent is removed before hardening reaction proceeds. It is also possible to change the frosty appearance by controlling the relative humidity and temperature 5 of air to be blown or of the atmosphere under which the solvent is removed. In this manner, phase separation is caused inside the coating layer.

The solvent is preferably a highly hydrophilic solvent, and methanol or ethanol is more preferred. Ethanol is most 10 preferred from the viewpoint of safety.

The nature of the glassy-film-forming coating agent of the present invention is between the nature of organic substances and that of inorganic substances. For this reason, the solubility of the coating agent in solvent varies depending upon 15 the polymerization degree of monomers. For instance, the solubility of the coating agent in a solvent having relatively low hydrophilicity, such as 1-butanol, is high because the coating agent has organic nature. Therefore, even if the amount of the solvent is decreased during the step of drying, phase separation 20 does not occur easily. On the other hand, when a solvent having a relatively high hydrophilicity, such as methanol or ethanol, is used, phase separation readily occurs during the step of drying. This is because, when the amount of the solvent is decreased during the step of drying, the concentration of the coating agent becomes 25 higher than the solubility of the coating agent in the solvent.

Thus, by removing the solvent contained in the unhardened coating layer to cause phase separation, it is possible to make the appearance of the hardened coating layer frosty. The uneven structure formed on the coating layer due to phase separation 30 is maintained if the coating layer is successively hardened. The uneven structure tends to become flat if the coating layer is not hardened right after the occurrence of phase separation, so that attention should be given to this point.

To produce glass bottles having frosty surfaces, an etching 35 process using hydrofluoric acid, or coating with organic materials such as plastics has conventionally been conducted. On the contrary, it is not necessary to conduct such processing

as etching to obtain the frosty glass bottle of the present invention. Moreover, special consideration is not required for the recycling of the bottle that is conducted, for example, by making the bottle into cullet as mentioned previously.

5 <Coated Plastic Bottle>

The present invention also relates to a plastic bottle coated with the aforementioned glassy-film-forming coating agent by the above-described coating method.

The coated plastic bottle of the present invention is obtained by applying the aforementioned glassy-film-coating agent to the surface, preferably the outer surface of a plastic bottle, and hardening it. The thickness of the glassy film hardened is generally from 1 to 5 micrometers. Since this vitreous film is composed of an organic-inorganic hybrid material, the film shows flexibility, and has such a characteristic that the film is not easily separated from the bottle body even when the plastic bottle is deformed.

On the other hand, since this glassy film is bound to the bottle chiefly by siloxane bond, it is possible to completely separate the film from the coated bottle by washing the bottle with an alkaline washing liquid. Therefore, when a glassy film is formed on a transparent plastic bottle by coating the bottle with the glassy-film-forming coating agent containing a colorant, the plastic bottle can be colored, and, in addition, the colored coating can easily be removed when the plastic bottle is recycled. The coloring of PET bottles, which is restricted in view of the difficulties encountered in the re-use of the bottles as resources, can thus be conducted easily.

The glassy film formed by using the glassy-film-forming coating agent of the present invention is non-porous, so that it can impart improved gas impermeability to plastic bottles, gas impermeability being a weak point of conventional plastic containers.

There is no particular limitation on the type of plastics that can be used for plastic bottles in the present invention. Examples of useful plastics include polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene naphthalate, polyethylene, polypropylene,

polyvinyl chloride and polystyrene. Of these, polyethylene terephthalate is preferred.

<Glassy-Film-Coating System>

The present invention also relates to a glassy-film-coating system utilizing the above-described glassy-film-coating method.

The glassy-film-coating system of the present invention comprises the following units:

- (a) a coater for applying the aforementioned coating agent to a substrate; and
- 10 (b) a coating-hardening unit for irradiating and/or heating the coating agent applied to the substrate.

The system of the present invention firstly comprises a coater for forming a film of a coating agent on a substrate. For 15 the coating agent, the aforementioned coating agent of the present invention is used.

Any coater can be used depending upon the shape of the substrate to be coated with the coating agent. Specific examples of such a coater include dip coaters, spray coaters, and curtain 20 coaters. A dip coater is preferred when a glass bottle is used as the substrate.

To make the appearance of the finally obtainable glassy film frosty, the system of the present invention can further comprise a device for controlling the dryness of the film. For 25 this device, one for accelerating the drying of the film, e.g., a blower or fan, one for controlling the humidity of the film, e.g., a humidifier, or the like can be used depending on the method adopted to obtain a frosty appearance, described in the foregoing "Frosty Glass Bottle".

30 The system of the present invention comprises a coating-hardening unit for hardening the film of the coating agent formed on the substrate.

The coating-hardening unit may be composed of either one of or both of an irradiator for irradiating the film to cause 35 photopolymerization reaction, thereby hardening the film formed, and a heater for thermally causing polymerization reaction to harden the film. It is however preferable that the coating-

hardening unit be composed of these two devices, that is, the irradiator and heater.

An ultraviolet light irradiator is preferred as the irradiator. Specific examples of such an irradiator include 5 mercury vapor lamps, xenon discharge tubes, hydrogen discharge tubes, black light lamps, and a variety of laser light sources.

Although any heater can be used, an electric or air-heating furnace is usually used. It is preferable that the heater can heat the film of the coating agent formed on the substrate to 10 60 to 300°C, preferably 120 to 200°C.

The glassy-film-coating system of the present invention comprises the above-described two units, and, if necessary, may further comprise a device for cooling the film of the coating agent after heating, and, between the above described two units, 15 a device for carrying the substrate to be coated with the glassy film. The system is usually placed in a high temperature atmosphere, so that it is preferable that a series of these units/devices be automatically controllable.

By referring now to the accompanying drawings, one 20 embodiment of the glassy-film-coating system of the present invention will be described hereinafter.

Figs. 1 and 2 show an example of the glassy-film-coating system of the present invention.

In the system shown in these figures, a glass bottle 7, 25 substrate, is carried by a conveyer 5 to coating agent baths 1, 2, and then to a coating-hardening unit (an ultraviolet light irradiator 3, and a heater 4). These members are covered with a hood 9 having an opening that exposes a part of the conveyer 5. This opening is used as a take-up part 10. At this part, the 30 glass bottle 7 is attached to the conveyer 5, and the coated glass bottle is detached.

The process of coating is as follows.

The glass bottle 7 is attached to the conveyer at the take-up part 10. The attached glass bottle 7 is carried to the 35 coating agent bath 1, in which the coating agent is applied to the glass bottle. The coater 1 shown in the figures is a dip coater.

This dip coater is as shown in Figs. 3A and 3B. The glass bottle 7 that has reached the coating agent bath 1 is raised obliquely by a cylinder 20 attached to the conveyer. The coating agent bath 1 is elevated by a lifter 8 to the lower part of the 5 glass bottle 7 raised, and the glass bottle 7 is thus immersed in the coating agent. The glass bottle immersed is turned around by a motor (not shown in the figures) fitted to a gear 21 attached to the conveyer, whereby the coating agent is uniformly applied to the glass bottle 7. After the application of the coating agent 10 is completed, the coating agent bath is allowed to move downward, and the glass bottle 7 is then carried to the next step.

The coating agent bath may be single; however, a plurality of coating agent baths may be provided as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. In this case, the coating agents contained in the coating agent 15 baths may be either the same or different.

When the above-described dip coater is used, a concentric pattern may be formed on the film due to running of the excess coating agent. In order to prevent the film from having such non-uniformity, it is possible to use an absorber such as a sponge 20 to absorb the excess coating agent.

An excess-liquid-absorbing device as shown in Figs. 4A and 4B, for example, can be mentioned as a device having the above-described function.

In this device, the bottle 7 that has been immersed in the 25 coating liquid is pressed against a sponge 41 so that the sponge can absorb the excess coating agent. The sponge 41 is deformed when the bottle is directly pressed against the sponge 41, so that a concentric pattern may be formed on the film formed on the bottom of the bottle 7. In order to prevent this, a wire-mesh 30 material 42 that is hardly deformed is provided between the bottle 7 and sponge 41 in the device shown in Fig. 4A so that the bottle 7 will not be brought into direct contact with the sponge 41. Moreover, in this device, the wire-mesh material 42 is not fixed 35 to an absorber case 43. Therefore, even if the position of the bottle 7 changes as the coating operation proceeds, the bottom of the bottle is always kept parallel with the wire-mesh material 42. The bottle 7 is preferably being rotated even while the bottle

is in contact with the absorber (or wire-mesh material).

In this excess-liquid-absorbing device, the absorber case 43 moves backward after the absorber has absorbed the excess liquid on the bottle 7 for a predetermined period of time. As 5 a result, the smooth movement of the bottle 7 is ensured. The device shown in Fig. 4A further comprises a mechanism for compressing the absorber 41.

Namely, a plate 44 is attached to the back surface of the absorber 41, but not fixed to the absorber case 43. When the 10 absorber case 43 is set back from the position shown in Fig. 4A, the absorber 41 is compressed through the plate 44 by a squeezing cylinder 45 fixed. In this manner, the excess coating agent is recovered at a discharge hole 46. The state of the absorber case 43 at the time when it is set back is as shown in Fig. 4B.

15 The relation between this excess-liquid-absorbing device 40 and the coater is as shown in Figs. 5A and 5B. As shown in Fig. 5A, the bottle 7 is immersed in the coating agent contained in the coating agent bath 1. The coating agent bath 1 is then allowed to move downward, so that the relative position of the 20 bottle 7 becomes the upside of the coating agent bath 1 (Fig. 5B). The excess-liquid-absorbing device 40 then moves forward, and comes into contact with the bottom of the bottle 7 to absorb the excess coating agent.

The glass bottle 7 coated with the coating agent is carried 25 to the coating-hardening unit. As shown in Fig. 1, the glass bottle 7 is firstly carried to the ultraviolet light irradiator 3. The ultraviolet light irradiator 3 is equipped with a low-pressure mercury vapor lamp, for example, and the hardening of the film of the coating agent is conducted by using this lamp.

30 The glass bottle is then carried to the heater 4. The heater 4 is equipped with a far infrared heater, and the atmosphere of the heater is kept at a temperature of approximately 200°C. The film formed on the glass bottle 7 is fully hardened by this heater.

35 Also in the above coating-hardening unit, it is preferable to rotate the glass bottle 7 by means of a gear 21 or the like. By doing so, a uniformly hardened coating can be obtained.

The glass bottle 7 with the coating film hardened is cooled by air while it is carried to the take-up part 10. The system shown in Figs. 1 and 2 contains no specific cooler. However, a cooler such as a fan may positively be provided to the system.

5 EXAMPLES

The present invention will now be explained more specifically by referring to the following examples. The glassy films obtained in the examples were evaluated by the following test methods.

10 <Organic Solvent Resistance Test>

The organic solvent resistance of each film obtained was evaluated by rubbing the film with a cloth impregnated with acetone, and counting the number of rubbings conducted before the film was damaged.

15 <Adhesion Test>

The adhesion of the film to the substrate was evaluated in the following manner. The surface of the film was scored to from twenty five 2 mm x 2 mm squares, and a cellophane adhesive tape was applied to this surface; after peeling off the adhesive tape, the number of the squares remaining on the substrate was counted.

<Light Resistance Test>

The light resistance of the colored film was evaluated by placing the bottle coated with the film in a sunshine weatherometer, and determining the reduction rate in absorbance before and after the irradiation of the film with carbon arc light for 200 hours. Specifically, when the absorbance of the film is measured before and after irradiating the film with light having a wavelength at which the absorbance of the sample becomes highest 30 in the visible light range, the light resistance ΔA_L of the film can be expressed by the following equation:

$$\Delta A_L = (1 - \Delta A_{L1}/\Delta A_{L0}) \times 100 \quad (\% \text{ unit})$$

wherein A_{L0} is the absorbance of the film before irradiation, and A_{L1} is the absorbance of the film after irradiation.

35 Absorbance was measured by a visible ultraviolet spectrophotometer Model U-4000 manufactured by Hitachi, Ltd., Japan.

<Water Resistance Test & Hot Water Resistance Test>

The water resistance of the film obtained was evaluated by the reduction rate in specific absorptivity before and after the immersion of the bottle coated with the film in water at room temperature for one month. The hot water resistance of the film was evaluated by the reduction rate in specific absorptivity before and after the immersion of the bottle coated with the film in hot water at 90°C for 20 minutes. Specifically, when the absorbance of the film is measured before and after the irradiation of the film with light having a wavelength at which the absorbance of the sample becomes highest in the visible light range, the water resistance ΔA_w of the film can be expressed by the following equation:

$$\Delta A_w = (1 - \Delta A_{w1}/\Delta A_{w0}) \times 100 \quad (\% \text{ unit})$$

wherein A_{w0} is the absorbance of the film before immersion in water, and

A_{w1} is the absorbance of the film after immersion in water.

Similarly, the hot water resistance ΔA_h of the film is expressed by the following equation:

$$\Delta A_h = (1 - \Delta A_{h1}/\Delta A_{h0}) \times 100 \quad (\% \text{ unit})$$

wherein A_{h0} is the absorbance of the film before immersion in hot water, and

A_{h1} is the absorbance of the film after immersion in hot water.

Absorbance was measured by a visible ultraviolet spectrophotometer Model U-4000 manufactured by Hitachi, Ltd., Japan.

<Abrasion Resistance Test>

A line simulator manufactured by AGR Corporation was so set that the rotational speed would be 28 rpm and that the deceleration by baffles would be 25%. This simulator was loaded with 25 coated bottles filled with tap water, and then operated.

One, two or five minutes after the start of operation, the sample bottles were visually observed, and evaluated based on the following criteria:

0: No scratch is found;

1: A small number of dot-shaped scratches are found;

- 2: Linear scratches are found;
3: A large number of linear scratches are found; and
4: Scratches are entirely found on the periphery of the bottle.
- 5 <Internal Pressure Resistance Test>
- Internal pressure resistance test was carried out in accordance with JIS S2302 for the coated bottles that had been subjected to the abrasion resistance test carried out by using the line simulator for 1, 2 or 5 minutes, and for coated bottles
10 not subjected to the abrasion resistance test. This test was carried out in a stepwise pressuring-progressive manner, and continued until the bottles were broken. The internal pressure resistance was evaluated by the average value (unit: kg/cm²) of the test results obtained from 10 sample bottles.
- 15 <Mechanical Impact Strength Test>
- Mechanical impact strength test was carried out in accordance with JIS S2303 for the bottles that had been subjected to the abrasion resistance test conducted by using the line simulator for 1, 2 or 5 minutes, and for bottles not subjected
20 to the abrasion resistance test. The test was carried out in a progressive manner by using an impact tester manufactured by AGR Corporation, and continued until the bottles were broken. The mechanical impact strength was evaluated by the average value (unit: kgf·cm) of the test results obtained from 10 sample bottles.
- 25 Example 1
- 4.7 ml of vinyl ethoxysilane and 4 ml of γ -methacryloxypropyl trimethoxysilane were dissolved in 8 ml of ethanol. To this solution was added 2.0 ml of a 0.01mol/l aqueous hydrochloric acid solution, and hydrolysis was carried out at
30 room temperature for 1 hour to obtain Solution A.
- 0.36 ml of a 0.01 mol/l aqueous hydrochloric acid solution was added to 1.5 ml of tetramethoxysilane, and hydrolysis was carried out at room temperature for 1 hour to obtain Solution B.
- 35 1.9 ml of titanium tetraisopropoxide and 1.9 ml of 2-propanol were mixed with each other to give Solution C.
- The above-prepared Solutions A and B were mixed. After

5 minutes, Solution C was added dropwise to this mixture. After adding the whole quantity of Solution C, the mixture was stirred for 48 hours to give a sol. This sol is hereinafter referred to as VMST Sol (I).

5 To 5.0 ml of this VMST Sol (I) were added 0.1 g of copper phthalocyanine and 0.01 g of "Antigel" manufactured by Schwegmann Corporation, and the mixture was stirred in a pot mill for 3 hours to give pigment-dispersed VMST Sol (I). This pigment-dispersed VMST Sol (I) was not gelled even when it was stored at room
10 temperature for 60 days.

A glass substrate was dip-coated with pigment-dispersed VMST Sol (I). This substrate was then subjected to heat treatment in a heating furnace at 200°C for 30 minutes in order to harden the film formed on the substrate, thereby obtaining a colored
15 coating with a thickness of 3 micrometers. The coating had uniformly been colored, and crack and non-uniformity in color were not found at all by visual observation.

In the organic solvent resistance test, the coating remained unchanged even when it was rubbed 100 times or more with
20 a cloth impregnated with acetone. Moreover, in the adhesion test, all of the squares were found to be remaining on the substrate.

Example 2

Pigment-dispersed VMST Sol (I) was prepared in the same manner as in Example 1. 5 ml of this sol and 0.05 g of 1-hydroxycyclohexylphenyl ketone were mixed to give a sol. A glass substrate was dip-coated with this sol, and irradiated by using two 8 W low-pressure mercury vapor lamps for one hour, the distance between the substrate and the lamps being approximately 5 cm. Thereafter, the substrate was heated at 200°C for 30 minutes,
25 thereby obtaining a colored coating film with a thickness of approximately 3 micrometers. The organic solvent resistance of the coating formed, and the adhesion between the coating and substrate were evaluated in the same manner as in Example 1.

In the organic solvent resistance test, the coating remained unchanged even when it was rubbed 100 times or more with
35 a cloth impregnated with acetone. Moreover, in the adhesion test, all of the squares were found to be remaining on the substrate.

Example 3

320 g of vinyl ethoxysilane and 420 g of γ -methacryloxypropyl trimethoxysilane were dissolved in 540 g of ethanol. To this solution was added 180 g of a 0.01 mol/l aqueous hydrochloric acid solution, and hydrolysis was carried out at room temperature for 1 hour to obtain Solution D.

30 g of a 0.01 mol/l aqueous hydrochloric acid solution was added to 130 g of tetramethoxysilane, and hydrolysis was carried out at room temperature for 1 hour to obtain Solution E.

160 g of titanium tetraisopropoxide and 130 g of 2-propanol were mixed with each other to give Solution F.

The above-prepared Solutions D and E were mixed. After 5 minutes, Solution F was added dropwise to the mixture. After 15 adding the whole quantity of Solution F, the mixture was stirred for 48 hours to give a sol. This sol is hereinafter referred to as VMST Sol (II).

To 20 parts by weight of this VMST Sol (II), 3 parts by weight of durene blue pigment, 11 parts by weight of "Antigel", 20 and 76 parts by weight of 1-butanol were added. The mixture was stirred in a sand mill, thereby obtaining pigment-dispersed VMST Sol (II). This pigment-dispersed VMST Sol (II) was free of gelling or of increase in viscosity even when it was stored at room temperature for 6 months or more.

300-ml dual coating glass bottle W for carbonated beverages was immersed in VMST Sol (II) for coating. The coated bottle was heated in a heating furnace at 200°C in order to harden the coating, thereby obtaining blue-colored coating bottle X coated with a glassy film having a thickness of 2 micrometers.

30 The organic components contained in the colored coating thus formed were equal to 50% by weight when calculated from the composition. Further, it was found that the organic component content of the whole glass bottle was 200 ppm when the thickness of the glass bottle and that of the coating were 3 mm and 2 micrometers, respectively. On the other hand, the organic component content of a conventional acrylic-resin-coated bottle (the thickness of the coating: 10 micrometers) was found to be

as high as 1,000 ppm.

Evaluation 1

Non-uniformity in color, peeling and crack were not observed on the coating formed on the surface of the bottle X.

- 5 The bottle X was subjected also to the above-described tests. The results were as follows:

Table 1

Test Item	Results
Adhesion	0/25
Organic Solvent Resistance	>100 times
Light Resistance	<1%
Water Resistance	<1%
Hot Water Resistance	<1%

- The above results demonstrate the following. The coating
10 formed on the glass bottle X according to the present invention
is excellent in adhesion, organic solvent resistance and light
resistance, and highly durable. It shows very small change in
color when exposed to light, reveals high water and hot water
resistance, and scarcely releases the colorant even when immersed
15 in water or hot water.

Example 4

- To 100 parts by weight of pigment-dispersed VMST Sol (II) were added 5 parts by weight of methyl methacrylate and 0.2 parts by weight of 2-isobutoxy-2-phenylacetophenone, and the mixture
20 was stirred to give a sol. A 300-ml dual coating glass bottle for carbonated beverages was immersed in this sol for coating. The coated glass bottle was irradiated for 3 minutes with ultraviolet light emitted from a mercury vapor lamp of 2,800 W (80 W/cm). This bottle was then heated in a heating furnace at
25 200°C for 6 minutes in order to harden the film on the bottle, thereby obtaining colored coating bottle Y coated with a glassy film with a thickness of approximately 2 micrometers. Non-uniformity in color, peeling and crack were not observed on the coating formed.

30 Example 5

One part by weight of a friction-reducing agent "S130"

manufactured by Schwegmann Corporation was added to and mixed with 100 parts by weight of pigment-dispersed VMST Sol (II) to give a sol. A 300-ml dual coating glass bottle for carbonated beverages was immersed in this sol for coating. The coated glass bottle was heated in a heating furnace at 200°C in order to harden the film on the bottle, thereby obtaining colored coating bottle Z coated with a glassy film with a thickness of approximately 2 micrometers. Non-uniformity in color, peeling and crack were not observed on the coating formed.

10 Evaluation 2

The above-obtained coated glass bottles X, Y and Z, and, for comparison, non-coated 300-ml glass bottle W for carbonated beverages were subjected to the aforementioned tests for evaluation. The results obtained are as follows.

15 Table 2

Table 2 (continuation)

The results shown in the above table demonstrate the following.

<Abrasion Resistance>

Glass bottle Z coated with the film containing the friction-reducing agent is free from scratches, and shows extremely high abrasion resistance. Both glass bottle X and glass bottle Y have properties comparable to those of glass bottle W (Comparative Example). In particular, glass bottle Y has properties equal to those of glass bottle X although the time spent to harden the coating on glass bottle Y is shorter than that spent to harden the coating on glass bottle X.

<Internal Pressure Resistance>

Glass bottle X is superior to comparative glass bottle W in internal pressure resistance irrespective of the simulator operation time. Further, the internal pressure resistance of glass bottle W decreased as the simulator operation time increased, while the internal pressure resistance of glass bottle X remained constant within the range of statistical scattering even when the simulator operation time was made longer.

<Mechanical Impact Strength>

Glass bottle X is superior to comparative glass bottle W in mechanical impact strength irrespective of the simulator operation time. Further, although the mechanical impact strength of glass bottle W decreased as the simulator operation time increased, that of glass bottle X remained constant within the range of statistical scattering even when the simulator operation time was made longer.

Example 6

A 500-ml polyethylene terephthalate (hereinafter referred to as PET) bottle was immersed in pigment-dispersed VMST Sol (II) in order to coat the outer surface of the bottle with the sol. The coating formed on the bottle was hardened in a thermostatic chamber at 70°C, thereby obtaining a colored coating bottle coated with a glassy film having a thickness of approximately 2 micrometers.

The oxygen permeability of the coated PET bottle obtained and that of a non-coated PET bottle were measured. The oxygen

permeability of the non-coated PET bottle was 0.27, while that of the coated PET bottle was 0.22. These results demonstrate that the gas impermeability of the non-coated PET bottle was improved by the coating by approximately 20%.

5 Further, when the coated PET bottle was immersed in an aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (3%) at room temperature, the coating was separated from the entire surface of the bottle within 5 minutes.

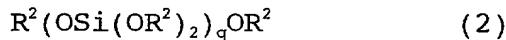
Example 7

10 300 g of ethanol was added to and mixed with 300 g of VMST Sol (II). A 300-ml dual coating glass bottle for carbonated beverages was immersed in this sol in order to form a film on the outer surface of the bottle. Immediately after the withdrawal of the glass bottle from the coating liquid, dry air
15 was blown by the use of a dryer on the bottle with the bottle being rotated. The coated glass bottle was then placed in an electric furnace at 200°C for 10 minutes in order to harden the coating. The coating formed on the glass bottle entirely had a semitransparent frosty appearance, and peeling, crack and other
20 defects were not observed at all on this coating.

20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

CLAIMS

1. A glassy-film-forming coating agent comprising compounds represented by the following general formulae (1), (2) and (3):



wherein

R^1 is a polymerizable organic group,

R^2 is an alkyl group having not more than 4 carbon atoms,

R^3 is an alkyl group having not more than 6 carbon atoms,

p is an integer of 1 to 3,

q is an integer of 1 to 10,

M is a trivalent or tetravalent metal ion, and

r is an integer of 3 or 4 corresponding to the valence of M ,

provided that, when one of the compounds contains two or more R^1 's, R^2 's or R^3 's, they may be the same or different.

2. The coating agent according to claim 1, comprising the compounds in the following proportions:

compound (1): 40 to 80 mol%,

compound (2): 10 to 30 mol%, and

compound (3): 10 to 50 mol%.

3. The coating agent according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising a polymerization initiator.

4. The coating agent according to any of claims 1 to 3, further comprising an organic pigment, a dispersant and a solvent.

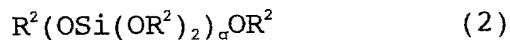
5. The coating agent according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein R^1 is an organic group having unsaturated double bond.

6. The coating agent according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein R^1 is vinyl or γ -methacryloxypropyl group, R^2 is methyl or ethyl group,

R^3 is ethyl, methyl, isopropyl or butyl group, and M is Ti, Zr or Al.

7. A glassy-film-coating method comprising:

applying, to a substrate, a coating agent which comprises compounds represented by the following general formulae (1), (2) and (3):



wherein

R^1 is a polymerizable organic group,

R^2 is an alkyl group having not more than 4 carbon atoms,

R^3 is an alkyl group having not more than 6 carbon atoms,

p is an integer of 1 to 3,

q is an integer of 1 to 10,

M is a trivalent or tetravalent metal ion, and

r is an integer of 3 or 4 corresponding to the valence of

M ,

provided that, when one of the compounds contains two or more R^1 's, R^2 's or R^3 's, they may be the same or different, and

subjecting the coating agent applied to the substrate to irradiation and/or heat treatment.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the substrate is made of glass.

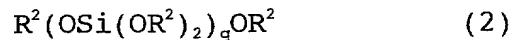
9. The method according to claim 7, wherein the substrate is made from a plastic.

10. The method according to any of claims 7 to 9, wherein the heating temperature is from 60 to 300°C.

11. The method according to any of claims 7 to 10, further comprising, between the step of applying the coating agent to the substrate and the step of subjecting the coating agent applied to the substrate to irradiation and/or heat treatment, the step of removing a solvent contained in the coating layer in order to cause phase separation inside the coating layer, thereby making the appearance of the coating layer frosty.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein, after applying the coating agent to the substrate, the solvent is removed by blowing air on the coating layer formed.

13. A coated bottle produced by applying, to a bottle, substrate, a coating agent comprising compounds represented by the following general formulae (1), (2) and (3):





wherein

R^1 is a polymerizable organic group,

R^2 is an alkyl group having not more than 4 carbon atoms,

R^3 is an alkyl group having not more than 6 carbon atoms,

p is an integer of 1 to 3,

q is an integer of 1 to 10,

M is a trivalent or tetravalent metal ion, and

r is an integer of 3 or 4 corresponding to the valence of M,

provided that, when one of the compounds contains two or more R^1 's, R^2 's or R^3 's, they may be the same or different, and

subjecting the coating agent applied to the bottle to irradiation and/or heat treatment.

14. The coated bottle according to claim 13, wherein the substrate is a glass bottle.

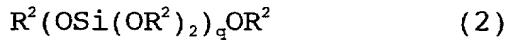
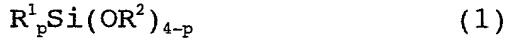
15. The coated bottle according to claim 13, wherein the substrate is a plastic bottle.

16. The coated bottle according to any of claims 13 to 15, wherein, between the application of the coating agent to the substrate and the irradiation and/or heat treatment, a solvent contained in the coating layer is removed in order to cause phase separation inside the coating layer, thereby making the appearance of the coating layer frosty.

17. The coated bottle according to claim 16, wherein, after applying the coating agent to the substrate, the solvent is removed by blowing air on the coating layer formed.

18. A glassy-film-coating system comprising the following units:

(a) a coater for applying, to a substrate, a glassy-film-forming coating agent which comprises compounds represented by the following general formulae (1), (2) and (3):



wherein

R^1 is a polymerizable organic group,

R^2 is an alkyl group having not more than 4 carbon atoms,
 R^3 is an alkyl group having not more than 6 carbon atoms,
 p is an integer of 1 to 3,
 q is an integer of 1 to 10,
 M is a trivalent or tetravalent metal ion, and
 r is an integer of 3 or 4 corresponding to the valence of
 M ,

provided that, when one of the compounds contains two or more R^1 's, R^2 's or R^3 's, they may be the same or different, and
(b) a coating-hardening unit for irradiating and/or heating the coating agent applied to the substrate.

19. The glassy-film-coating system according to claim 18, wherein the coating agent is applied to the substrate by the coater by means of dip coating.

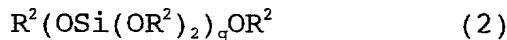
20. The glassy-film-coating system according to claim 18 or 19, wherein the coating-hardening unit is composed of an irradiator and a heater.

21. The glassy-film-coating system according to any of claims 18 to 20, wherein the system comprises a conveyer, and the substrate attached to this conveyer is successively subjected to the following steps of:

- (i) applying the coating agent to the substrate by the coater by means of dip coating;
- (ii) irradiating the coating agent applied to the substrate with ultraviolet light by using the irradiator; and
- (iii) heating the irradiated coating agent to 60 to 300°C by the heater.

ABSTRACT

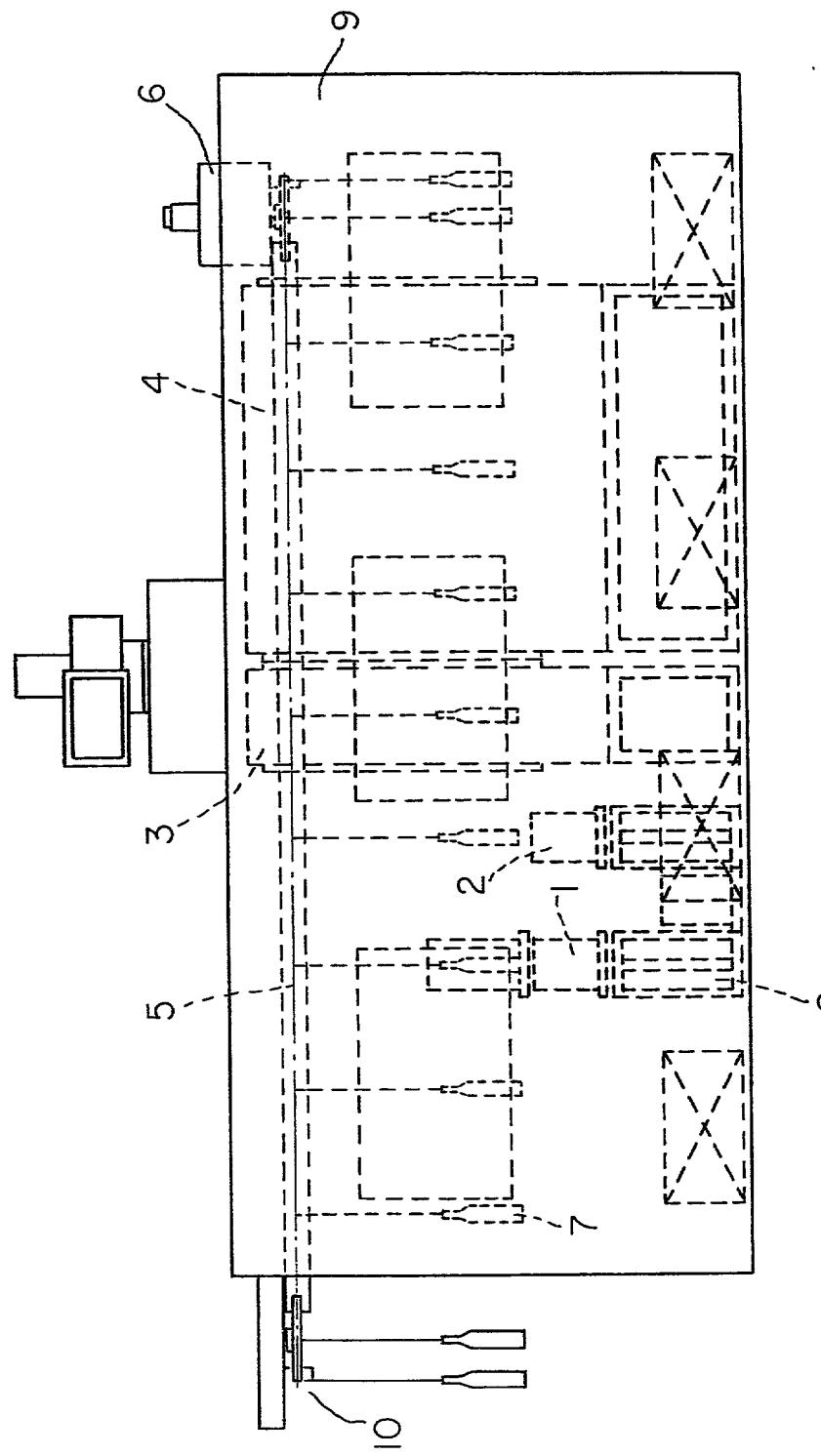
A glassy-film-forming coating agent comprising compounds represented by the following general formulae (1), (2) and (3):



wherein R^1 is a polymerizable organic group, R^2 is an alkyl group having not more than 4 carbon atoms, R^3 is an alkyl group having not more than 6 carbon atoms, p is an integer of 1 to 3, q is an integer of 1 to 10, M is a trivalent or tetravalent metal ion, and r is an integer of 3 or 4 corresponding to the valence of M , provided that, when one of the compounds contains two or more R^1 's, R^2 's or R^3 's, they may be the same or different; a coating method and a coating system using the same.

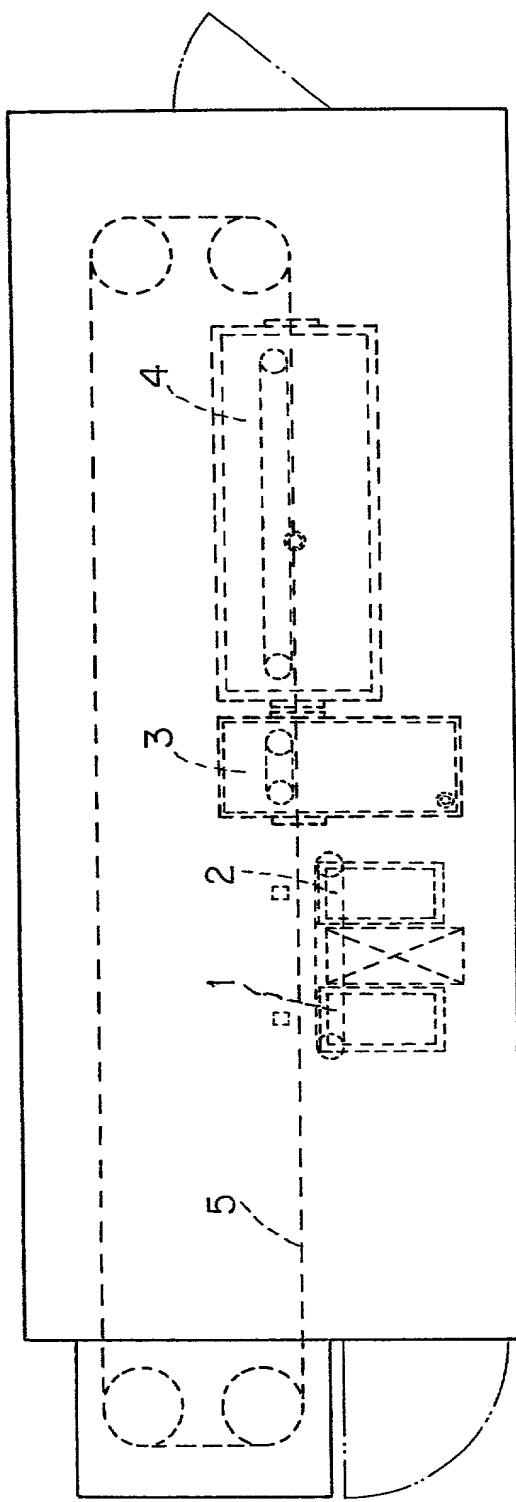
The present invention provides a coating agent useful for forming a glassy film which has sufficiently high flexibility and which hardens rapidly with its thickness in the order of microns being well controlled, the hardened film showing high adhesion to a substrate and excellent organic solvent resistance. The present invention also provides a glassy-film-coating method and system using this coating agent.

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F I G. I

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F I G. 2

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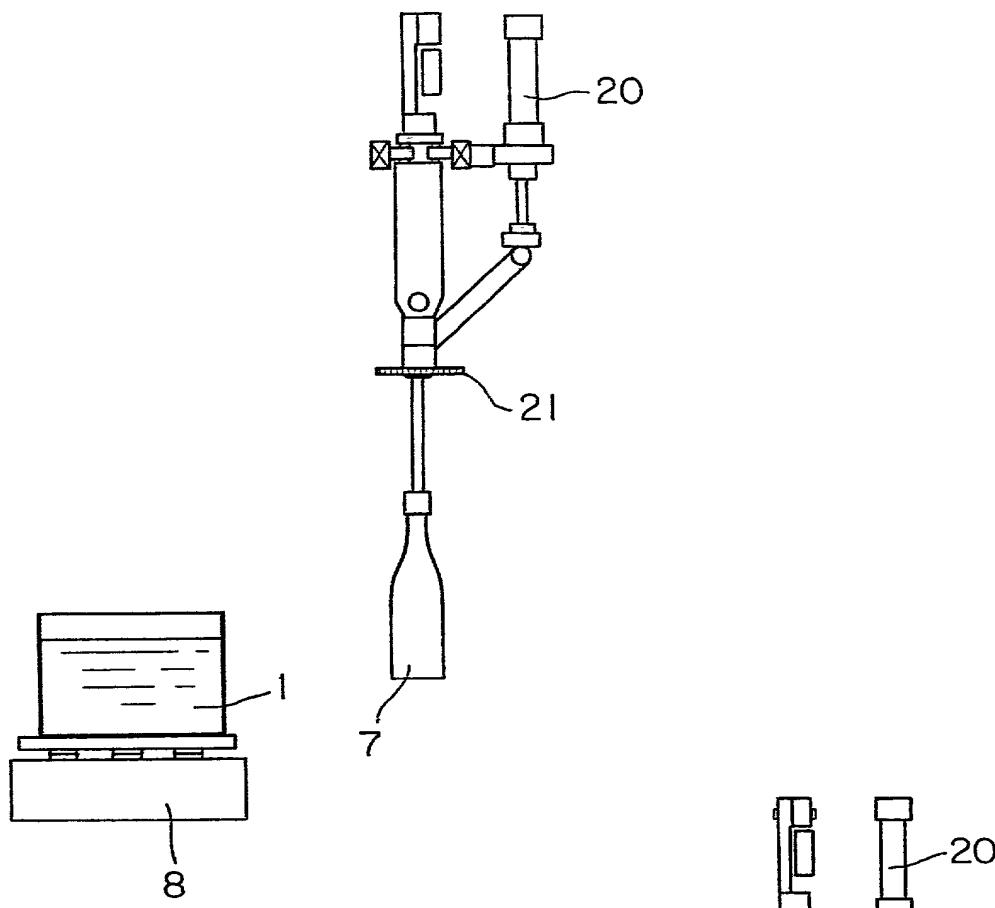


FIG. 3A

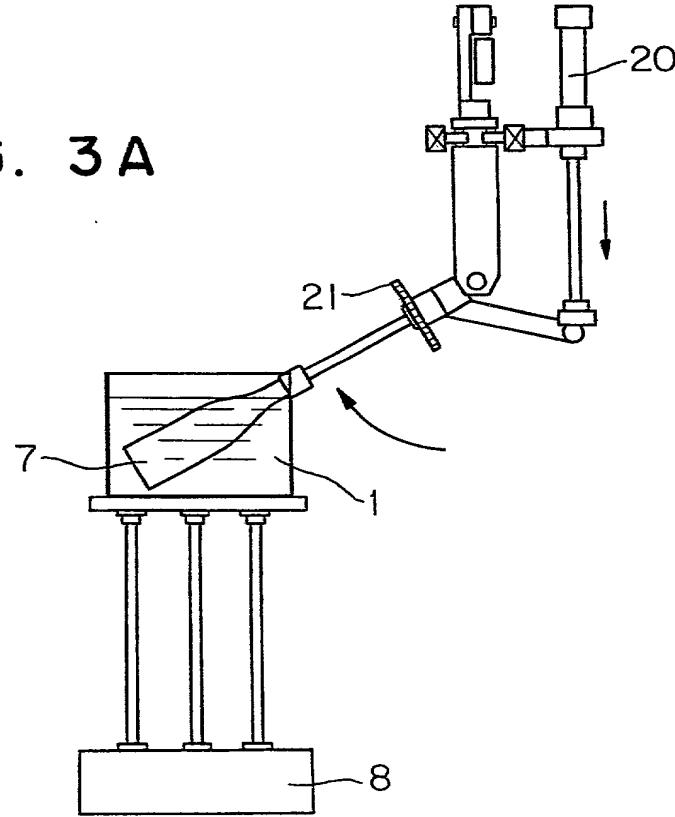


FIG. 3B

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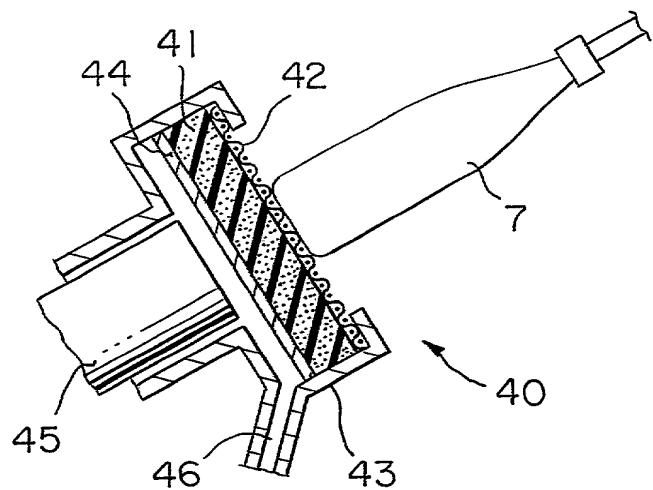


FIG. 4A

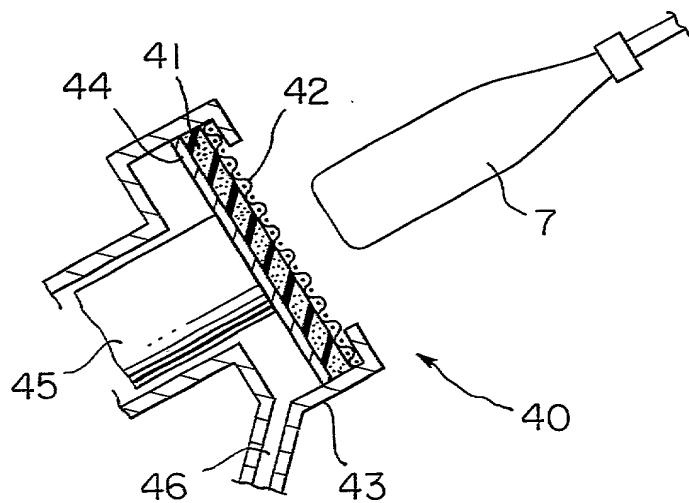
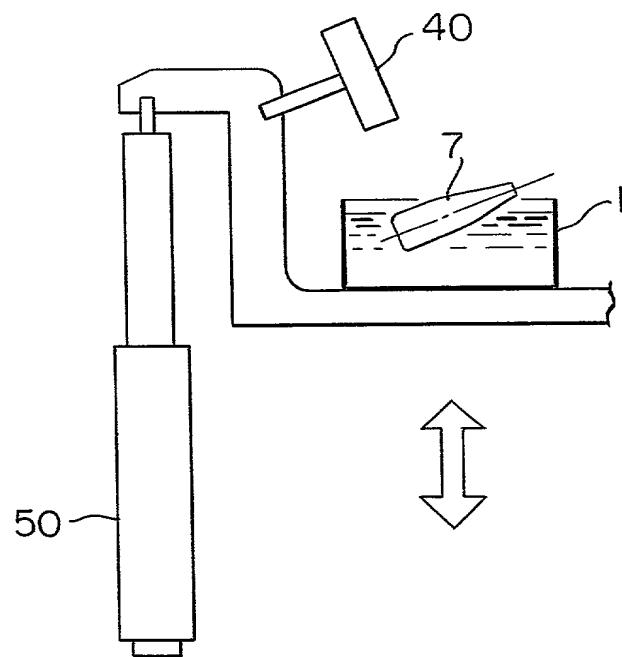


FIG. 4B

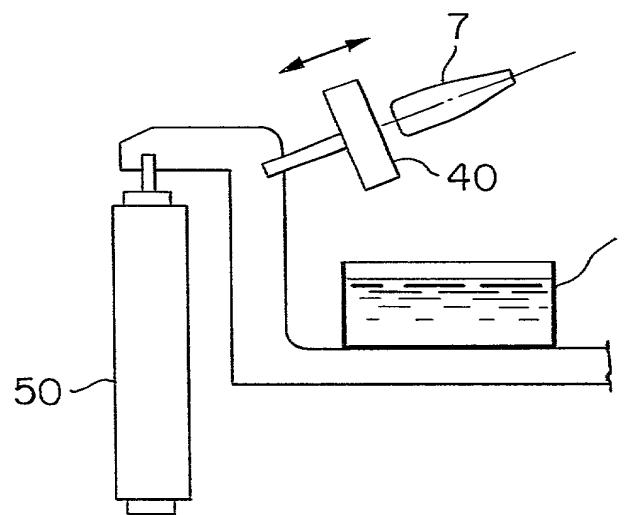
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F I G. 5 A



F I G. 5 B

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

特許出願宣言書及び委任状

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

下記の氏名の発明者として、私は以下の通り宣言します。

私の住所、私書箱、国籍は下記の私の氏名の後に記載された通りです。

下記の名称の発明に関して請求範囲に記載され、特許出願している発明内容について、私が最初かつ唯一の発明者（下記の氏名が一つの場合）もしくは最初かつ共同発明者（下記の名称が複数の場合）であると信じています。

上記発明の明細書は、

- 本書に添付されています。
- ____月____日に提出され、米国出願番号または特許協定条約国際出願番号を_____とし、
(該当する場合) _____に訂正されました。

私は、特許請求範囲を含む上記訂正後の明細書を検討し、内容を理解していることをここに表明します。

私は、連邦規則法典第37編第1条56項に定義されるとおり、特許資格の有無について重要な情報を開示する義務があることを認めます。

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled.

"GLASSY-FILM-FORMING COATING AGENT,
AND COATING METHOD AND SYSTEM USING
THE SAME"

the specification of which

- is attached hereto.
- was filed on March 11, 1998
as United States Application Number or
PCT International Application Number
PCT/JP98/01018 and was amended on
_____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

Japanese Language Declaration

(日本語宣言書)

私は、米国法典第35編119条 (a) - (d) 項又は365条 (b) 項に基づき下記の、米国以外の国の少なくとも一ヵ国を指定している特許協力条約365 (a) 項に基づく国際出願、又は外国での特許出願もしくは発明者証の出願についての外国優先権をここに主張するとともに、優先権を主張している、本出願の前に出願された特許または発明者証の外国出願を以下に、枠内をマークすることで、示しています。

Prior Foreign Application(s)

外国での先行出願

122445/1997

(Number)
(番号)

Japan

(Country)
(国名)

(Number)
(番号)

(Country)
(国名)

私は、第35編米国法典119条 (e) 項に基づいて下記の米国特許出願規定に記載された権利をここに主張いたします。

(Application No.)
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)
(出願日)

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(Application No.)
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)
(出願日)

私は、私自信の知識に基づいて本宣言書中で私が行なう表明が真実であり、かつ私の入手した情報と私の信じるところに基づく表明が全て真実であると信じていること、さらに故意になされた虚偽の表明及びそれと同等の行為は米国法典第18編第1001条に基づき、罰金または拘禁、もしくはその両方により処罰されること、そしてそのような故意による虚偽の声明を行なえば、出願した、又は既に許可された特許の有効性が失われることを認識し、よってここに上記のごとく宣誓を致します。

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 (a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Priority Claimed
優先権主張

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes はい	No いいえ
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes はい	No いいえ

13/May/1997

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(出願年月日)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(出願年月日)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application No.)
(出願番号)

(Filing Date)
(出願日)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of application.

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
(現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)
(現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Japanese Language Declaration
(日本語宣言書)

委任状：私は下記の発明者として、本出願に関する一切の手続きを米特許商標局に対して遂行する弁理士または代理人として、下記の者を指名いたします。
(弁護士、または代理人の指名及び登録番号を明記のこと)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: (*list name and registration number*)

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Japanese Language Declaration

(日本語宣言書)

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住所	Residence	
国籍	Citizenship	
郵便の宛先	Post Office Address	

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住所	Residence	
国籍	Citizenship	
郵便の宛先	Post Office Address	

第六の共同発明者の氏名	Full name of sixth joint inventor, if any	
第六の共同発明者の署名 日付	Sixth joint Inventor's signature	Date
住所	Residence	
国籍	Citizenship	
郵便の宛先	Post Office Address	

(第六またはそれ以降の共同発明者に対しても同様な情報および署名を提供すること。)

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)